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SPEECH OF MR. DIX,

OF NEW YORK,

ON THE RESOLUTION GIVING THE TWELVE MONTHS' NOTICE FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE JOINT OCCUPANCY OF THE OREGON TERRITORY.

Delivered in the Senate of the United States, February 18 & 19, 1846.

[CONCLUDED.]

The explorations of Vancouver, through they resulted in a minute and critical examination of the shores of the strait of Fuca, led to the discovery of no new territory; and it is a singular fact, that while this naval officer of Great Britain, himself an accomplished navigator furnished with all the means of making scientific investigations, was pursuing the examinations, which were the great purpose of his expedition, Captain Gray, in a trading vessel, and in the prosecution of commercial objects alone, discovered the only two important openings, the Columbia river and Bullfinch's harbor, on the northwest coast, from the 40th to 48th parallel of latitude, where Vancouver after the most critical survey, had discovered none.

It is indeed an extraordinary circumstance that the existence of all the great inlets on the coast, to which Great Britain now lays claim on the ground of discovery, was strenuously denied by the navigators in her service, until those inlets were discovered and made known by others. We have seen what Vancouver said in relation to the coast between the 49th and 48th parallel of latitude. On the 22d of March, 1778, Capt. Cook was in latitude 48deg. 15m. inspecting the coast. The promontory of Classet, (or Cape Flattery as he denominated it) the southern cape at the entrance of the strait of Juan de Fuca was in full view, and but a few miles distant. Hear what he says in relation to the strait:

"It is in this very latitude where we now were that geographers have placed the pretended strait of Juan de Fuca. But we saw nothing like it; nor is there the least probability that any such thing ever existed."—Cook's Third Voyage, volume 2, page 263.

Now, however, Great Britain claims the whole strait and the adjoining country by Vancouver's discovery, though he himself admits (as we shall see) that the Spaniards had surveyed and mapped a portion of it before he arrived on the northwest coast.

In the letter of the British plenipotentiary, Mr Pakenham, of the 29th July last, the following passage will be found at page 67, document accompanying the President's message:

"In 1792, Vancouver, who had been sent from England to witness the fulfilment of the above mentioned engagement, (the restitution of buildings, &c' at Nootka, which as has already been seen, were not to be found,) and to effect a survey of the north west coast, departing from Nootka must entered the straits of Fuca; and after an accurate survey of the coasts and inlets on both sides, discovered a passage northwards into the Pacific, by which he returned to Nootka, having thus circumnavigated the island which now bears his name. And here we have, as far as relates to Vancouver's island, as complete a case of discovery, exploration, and settlement as can well be presented, giving to Great Britain, in any arrangement that may be made with regard to the territory in dispute, the strongest possible claim to the exclusive possession of the island."

To repel this assumption, the grounds of which the distinguished British plenipotentiary appears not to have sufficiently investigated, Mr. Buchanan briefly referred to previous examination by the Spaniards. I now proceed to show by Vancouver himself that the assumption is entirely unsustained by the facts.

In the first place let me correct an error into which Mr. Pakenham has fallen at the outset, in saying that Vancouver, "departing form Nootka sound," surveyed the straits of Fuca, circumnavigated the island which bears his name, and then returned to Nootka. Sir, Vancouver had never seen Nootka sound when he surveyed the straits of Fuca. He entered the straits on the 28th of April, the evening of the day he met Capt. Gray and proceeded immediately to survey them as may be seen by his journal, vol. 2, pages 40 and 52. He arrived at Nootka, for the first time, on the 28th of August, four months afterwards—page 331 same volume. This correction is only important as repelling the inference which might have been drawn from the fact, if it had been as stated by Mr. Pakenham, that Vancouver had been previously established at Nootka, and had departed from it as from a regular station on a voyage of exploration to the straits of Fuca.

But there are more important errors to be corrected.

While Vancouver was surveying the straits of Fuca, and the extensive inland waters connected with it Galiano and Valdes, two Spanish officers, sent out from Nootka sound, were engaged in the same service. The two parties met on the 22d of June, about the middle of the strait, near Point Gray, above Frazer's river, and proceeded together northerly, uniting their labors, and surveying its shores to a point near the extremity of the island of Quadra and Vancouver, between the 50th and the 51st degrees of north latitude, where they separated. And here I desire to call the special attention of the Senate to the Journal of Vancouver, who states that Senor Galiano, who spoke a little English, informed him "that [illegible] Nootka on the 11th of April from whence they had sailed on the 5th of this month (June,) "in order to complete the examination of this inlet, which had, in the preceding year, been partly surveyed by some Spanish officers, whose chart they produced." Observe, sir, the inlet (i. e. the strait of Fuca,) about latitude 50 degrees, partly surveyed and is mapped a year before Vancouver came on the coast. Vancouver then continues, (page 210, vol. 2:)

"I cannot avoid acknowledging that, on this occasion, I experienced no small degree of mortification in finding the external shores of the gulf had been visited, and already examined a few miles beyond where my researches during the excursion had extended, making the land I had been in doubt about an island; continuing nearly in the same direction about four leagues further than had been seen by us and by the Spaniards named Favida, (Feveda.")

By turning back to page 204, vol. 2, it will appear that Vancouver's examination terminated at 50 deg. 6m., north latitude; so that the Spaniards, before his arrival, by his own acknowledgment, had examined the strait of Fuca to a point north of that parallel; and by turning to page 249, vol, 2, it will be seen that, on parting with Senor Galiano, the latter furnished him with "a copy of his survey and other particulars relative to the inlet of the sea, which contained also that part of the neighboring coast extending northwestward from the straits of De Fuca, beyond Nootka, to the latitude of 50deg. 3m.' longitude 232 degrees 48."

What, then, becomes of this complete "case of discovery, exploration, and settlement," in respect to Quadra and Vancouver's island, and the straits of Fuca? It is proved by Vancouver himself that the Spaniards had partially surveyed and mapped the shores of the strait as high as 50 deg. a year before he arrived on the coast. And if we turn to his journal, vol. 2, page 339, it will be seen that Galiano and Valdes arrived at Nootka on the 1st of September, three days after him, by a 'route through Queen Charlotte's sound' round the northern point of the island, "to the southard of that which we had navigated," and of course following its shores more closely than he 'The strongest possible claim to the exclusive possession of the island," to use Mr. Pakenham's language, is not, therefore, as he asserts, in Great Britain; but, as shown by Vancouver himself, it was in Spain then, and is in us now.

But, sir, I have a word to say in relation to the whole subject of Vancouver's exploration.

It would seem that the Spaniards, in the autumn of 1793, had become distrustful of Vancouver's objects in the survey of the northwest coast. At the bay of St. Francisco, although he had everywhere before been treated with a civility by the Spaniards, for which his journal abounds in expressions of gratitude, he was subjected to restrictions which he denominates "unexpected, ungracious, and degrading." On his arrival at Monterey on the 1st of November the Spanish commander, Arrillage, declined holding any verbal communication with him, but, addressed to him questions in writing as to the object of his voyage, to which Vaucouver promptly replied, (page 309, vol. 4,)

"That the voyage in which we were engaged was for the general use and benefit of mankind, and that under these circumstances, we ought rather to be considered as laboring for the good of the world in general, than of any particular sovereign, and that the court of Spain would be more early informed, and as much benefited by my labors as the kingdom of Great Britain."

Here is the confession of Vancouver himself, that there was no intention of interfering with the territorial rights of Spain, and that no special advantages were sought for by Great Britain—It is the highest evidence, the evidence of cotemporaneous exposition, against the claims of the British plenipotentiary; and it demolishes the whole fabric of the British title, so far as it is built on Vancouver's explorations.

While on this part of the subject, I desire also to call the attention of the Senate to the manner in which the Oregon question has been discussed in the British Parliament by some of the most distinguished members of both branches of that body. I wish to do so for the purpose of correcting great inaccuracies, and also for the purpose of showing how imperfectly the subject appears to be understood by those who, from their elevated positions, are under the strongest moral obligations to possess themselves of the truth, in order that the public mind of Great Britian may not be misled and inflamed on their high authority.

In the House of Lords, on the 4th of April last, immediately after the reception of the President's inaugural speech, the subject was brought forward by the Earl of Clarendon, not in the usual form of a call on her Majesty's ministers for information, but in pursuance of a notice which he had given on the preceding day of his design to invite the attention of the House to the question. In the course of his remarks, he undertook to give a sketch of the claims of Great Britain and the United States to the territory of Oregon. I shall, in respect to the former, quote his own words from the London Times, a source to which we may confidently look for an accurate report of his lordship's remarks. I shall confine myself strictly to the question of title in all I have to say in reference to these debates, avoiding carefully all allusion to the offensive language with which they were in some instances connected:

"In the first place, my lords, if priority of discovery could constitute title, our claim would be unquestionable; for Sir F. Drake, when he first visited that country in 1538, found all the land unappropriated, and took possession of it, giving it the title of New Albion. I do not mean to say that this constitutes a claim, but owing, subsequently, to a seizure of British vessels at Nootka, and to a dispute which arose in consequence, it was arranged by the treaty of the Escurial that the subject of the contracting parties should not be molested in fishing and making settlements in parts not hitherto occupied. In 1792, the country adjacent to the Columbia river was taken possession of by Cooke, and was explored in 1813 by the Northwestern Company, now called the Hudson Bay Company, who established themselves in Port St. George, under the government of British laws, having in the year following the first establishment in that country of a lawful and national character, and recognised as such by foreign states."

In the paragraph I have read there are numerous errors in the statement of facts, and I must ask the indulgence of the Senate while I point some of them out.

1. Sir Francis Drake araived on the northwest coast of America in 1597, and not in 1558, as stated by Lord Clarendon, making a difference of twenty-one years in point of time. If this error of date, which may possibly be typographical, were the only one, I should not have troubled the Senate with any reference to it. But there are graver misapprehensions in this statement. It will be seen, that though Lord Carendron does not venture to refer to sir Francis Drake's visit to the northwest coast as constituting a title of itself, he presents it as evidence of "priority of discovery." Sir, that navigator can in no just sense, be said to have visited the disputed territory of which Lord Clarendon was speaking. The territory commences at the 42d parallel of latitude, and runs north to 54 degrees 40m. Sir Francis Drake landed at 38 degree.—He sailed along the coast north of this parallel, according to the best authorities only as high as 43d degree. Nor can his visit, in any just sense be regarded as a discovery. This country including the bay of St. Francisco, where he landed, was previously known. It had been seen thirty years before as high as the 43d parallel by Ferrelo, who was sent out by the viceroy of Mexico, for the express purpose of exploring and extending the dominion of Spain over it; and it was taken possession of at or near the very point where Drake landed, and at various others, long before the government of Great Britain claimed any right of possession, growing out of this pretended discovery, and the visits of her navigators to the northwest coast.

Besides, Drake's expedition was in the nature of a piratical enterprise, and not an enterprise, of legitimate warfare. England and Spain were at peace. It is true, the two sovereigns, Elizabeth and Philip, were engaged in secret plots against each other—the former by fomenting disturbances in the Low Countries, and the latter by setting on foot rebellions in Ireland; but it was several years later before these intrigues broke out into the open hostility, of which the chief incident was the destruction of the invincible Armada. (Sir the contradiction of terms is the work of history, not mine.) Yet Elizabeth, after Drakes return to England, on the application of the Spanish ambassador complaining of his piracies, restored a portion of the booty he had taken and by this restitution admitted the unlawfulness of his expedition. It is only necessary to look into Hume to see in what light it has always been viewed by the eye of legitimate history.—Sir, it should need some boldness, one would think, to set up a claim even to "priority of discovery" on the basis of a transaction like this!

2. Lord Clarendon states that the country adjacent to the Columbia river, was taken possession of in 1792 by Captain Cook. Sir, Captain Cook never saw the Columbia river, or landed in the immediately adjacent country. His visit was to Nootka sound, on the island of Quadra and Vancouver, sparated from the continent by the strait of Fuca. His voyage is referred by Lord Clarendon to the year 1792. It was in fact, made in 1778, fourteen years before the Columbia river was entered or even certainly known to exist—Ten years after Cook's voyage to the coast, Menres, on whose explorations the British government partially rests its title, reports he could say with certainty, no such river as the St. Roc (Columbia) existed. Four years later still, Vancouver, after a most careful examination of the coast, came to the same conclusion, as we have seen. Sir, Lord Clarendon evidently confounded the voyage of Cook with that of Vancouver, without an accurate reference to either.

3. It is equally erroneous to say, that the northwest company explored the country in 1813, and established themselves in Port St. George. Explorations had been made, first by Lewis and Clarke, military officers in the service of the U States, and then by Thompson and others, in the service of the British and American fur companies. But no particular explorations, I believe, were made in the year referred to. The stock and property of the American company at Astoria were sold to the Northwest company in that year; but the place was restored to the United States in 1818, and no attempt was made by the government of Great Britain to extend its laws over any part of the territory until 1821, eight years after the time at which Lord Clarendon represents Astoria as being under the government of British laws, having the character of a national establishment of Great Britain, and recognised as such by foreign nations. Sir, it has never possessed such a national character, or been so recognised. If his lordship had taken the trouble to look at the statement of the British commissioners, (Messrs. Huskisson and Addington,) in 1826 he would have found they distinctly denied that it was "a national possession" or "a military post" in the hands of the Americans; and they endeavored to show by argument that it was not such in the hands of the Northwest Company after its purchase. Its restoration to us in 1818 is incompatible with the assumption that it has such a national character now. The assumption is equally inconsistent with the conditions of the treaties between Great Britain and the United States, which virtually preclude such an exclusive exercise of sovereignty on her part as to give any establishments made by her subjects a character of nationality. Nay, sir, it is inconsistent with the claims of Great Britain herself, whose commissioners in 1826 expressly renounced all pretentions to a right of exclusive sovereignty over any portion of the Oregon territory. It is difficult to fancy a paragraph of so many words so replete with error as the one on which I am commenting.

I regret to say that the subject was presented to the House of Commons with, if possible, still greater misrepresentations, and from an equally distinguished source; though I might not have felt myself called on to notice them, but for their connexion with the incidents I have been examining, and particularly the question of title.

The subject was introduced into the House of Commons by Lord John Russell, much in the same manner as it was presented to the House of Lords—not in the shape of a call for information, but in the nature of a protest against some of the positions taken by the President in his inaugural speech. This gentleman is a distinguished member of the whig party, a member of a former ministry, and was recently called on by her majesty to form another, but did not succeed. I will now read to the Senate that part of his lordship's remarks which relates to the discovery of the Columbia river, one of the principal historical facts on which the United States rest their claim to the Oregon territory:

"Now, it appears that Captain Vancouver was sent out by the British government to discover the line of coast, and to take possession of certain parts laid down in his instructions; and here we come to another part of the claims of the United States—to a part of their claims where they put in their claim to discovery upon a transaction which I will now proceed to relate. It appears that a merchant vessel called the Columbia, under a Captain Gray, discovered an inlet, which was supposed to be an inlet of a river. It appears that after some days in the month of May, 1792, passed partly at anchor and partly in endeavoring to ascertain the limits of that bay, that this vessel sailed out again into the Pacific ocean. There is a very clear account given by Captain Gray, the commander of that vessel, that 'after some days,' he says, 'we thought we had found a channel, we found we were mistaken. There is no channel in the part which we endeavored to penetrate, and therefore we must return.' Sortly after this, Captain Vancouver arrived on the coast. He not only went into the same inlet, but he sent his lieutenant—a Lieutenant Broughton—to discover the river, and to go in a boat to a distance up the river. Lieutenant Broughton was more successful than Captain Gray. He actually discovered the entrance of the Columbia river. He went up it in his boat several days, to the distance, I think, of some 90 or 100 miles. He discovered the territory surrounding it. It was agreed that the river should be called by the name of Columbia, and Lieutenant Broughton returned to his ship. But Captain Vancouver took possession of that river, the coast adjacent, and the Nootka sound, in the name of his majesty the king of England. (Hear, hear.) Then, sir, there was something of a title."

I confess it was with equal regret and surprise that I read this statement of a transaction which has become matter of history, and in respect to the facts of which there is no reasonable ground for serious misconception. I have looked in vain for the quotation Lord John Russell professes to make from Captain Gray. There is no such statement in the only account which I have seen given by the latter of the discovery of the Columbia river—the certified copy of his log in the State Department. His lordship goes on to state that Vancouver shortly after arrived on the coast, and not only went into the inlet, but sent in lieutenant Broughton, "who actually discovered the entrance to the Columbia river." Now, the Senate will observe that, in order to sustain this most unauthorized assumption, almost all the most important facts relating to the discovery of the Columbia river—facts shown by Vancouver's own journal—are kept out of view:—the meeting of Gray with Vancouver on the 29th April, 1792, five months previously, near the strait of Fuca; the information given by Gray to the latter of the discovery of the river, and of his unsuccessful attempts to enter it; the incredulity of Vancouver, and his continued conviction that no such river existed; the return of Gray to the river, his success in entering it, the arrival of Vancouver at Nootka where he obtained copies of Gray's charts left with Quadra, by the aid of which, Vancouver was enabled to find the stream, and send up his lieutenant, Broughton, to explore it. I say, sir, all these material facts are suppressed—I trust not intentionally—to sustain the unfounded assumption that Broughton was the discoverer of the Columbia. But it is worthy of remark that Mr. Falconer, a respectable British writer, who has recently published a pamphlet on Oregon, and who wrote about the time Lord John Russell, spoke, admits that Gray was the first person who noticed the Columbia river after Heceta, and concedes the discovery to the latter. Happily, the historical facts are too well authenticated to be permanently misunderstood. They were so well known at the time, that even the rivalry—not to say the detraction—of the day conceded to Gray the merit of the discovery by designating the river by the name he had given it—the name of the vessel that first entered its waters. In regard to the attempt to restrict Gray's discovery to the bay or the mouth of the river, it is only necessary to say that the settlement at Astoria is universally admitted to be on the Columbia river. Is it not so, sir? It is designated "settlement on the Columbia river," in the despatch of Earl Bathurst directing it to be restored to us in 1818, as well as in the act of restoration. Now, sir, Captain Gray ascended the river not only as high as Astoria, which is ten miles from the Pacific ocean, but at least six miles above it according to Broughton himself. Look at the map of Oregon on your table, by Capt. Wilkes, and you will find Gray's bay, so named by Broughton, (see Vancouver's journal, vol. 3, page 92,) on the north side of the Columbia and higher up than Astoria. According to Gray's own log, he anchored the day he discovered and entered the river, ten miles above the entrance, and three days after he sailed twelve or fifteen miles higher up. He must, therefore, have been from six to fifteen miles above the site of the settlement at Astoria. What then, becomes of the attempt of Broughton, revived by British statesmen, not negotiators, (no negotiator at this day would so risk his reputation,) to restrict Gray's discovery to the mouth of the stream?

Lord John Russell's statement is equally erroneous in other particulars—erroneous in saying that Vancouver entered the Columbia, as the inlet—erroneous in saying that he took possession of Nootka sound. His vessel, the Discovery, did not pass the bar at the mouth of the Columbia; he did not take possession of Nootka; Quadra refused to make a formal surrender of anything but Meare's cove, which he would not accept;—and the formality of taking possession of the Columbia river was performed by Broughton, after Vancouver had left the coast, much in the same way as it had been done ten years before by the Spaniards, who were the first discoverers and explorers of the country. I repeat, and I say it with regret, that besides the errors in point of fact, the leading and material circumstances connected with the discovery of the Columbia river are kept out of view. I do not expect British statesmen to produce arguments in favor of the American title; but when they undertake to refer to historical facts resting on their own authorities, and in their own possession, they are bound to state them with accuracy. Sir, we may excuse illogical deductions from admitted data;—we may look with indulgence on differences of opinion in regard to the same facts, knowing, as we do, our liability to be biased by prejudice or by too partial views of personal or national interest. But for an omission of essential circumstances in the discussion of important national questions, a discussion entered upon voluntarily for the purpose of enlightening the public mind of a nation, there can be no apology, even though it arise from a want of a sufficiently careful examination of the subject. On the Oregon question it is well known that great excitement existed at the time in Great Britain and the U. States—an excitement which exists still, though happily somewhat abated—an excitement which needs, perhaps, but little provokation to break out into open hostility; and no man who appreciates, as he ought, the calamity of an interruption of the amicable relations which exist between us, should be willing to incur the responsibility of misleading the public judgment of either country; or, if he does misdirect it, he should at least have the consolation of reflecting that it was thro' erroneous deductions, and not a misstatement of facts fairly within his knowledge.

The misrepresentations to which I have alluded are the more to be regretted, for the reason, if I do not err, that they constitute almost the only views of the subject which reach the great mass of the British people. In this country, statements of both sides of great national questions are equally diffused. Look at our newspapers, and they will be found filled with the diplomatic correspondence between the British and American plenipotentiaries. The letters of Mr. Packenham are published with those of Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Buchanan, and are as widely circulated. All read, compare, and judge them. It is not so in Great Britain. As a general rule, the British side of the question only is presented to the British public. Nor is it the official argument of the government, drawn up by the diplomatist, under a sense of his responsibility to the criticism of other nations, and the general judgment of mankind. No, sir! It is more frequently the "tirade" of the politician, by which the public mind of Great Britain is made to pronounce judgment upon great questions of international right and duty.

These misrepresentations are still more to be regretted, because they constitute the basis of the statements which find their way to the continent. Through Galignani's Messenger, the echo of the British press, they are translated into French, and widely circulated, poisoning the whole public mind of the continent, and exciting prejudice against us.

I will only add that the Earl of Aberdeen in one house, and Sir Robert Peel in the other, adverted to these statements in a manner which, though not altogether unexceptionable, was in general dignified and statesmanlike; and it is earnestly to be hoped that the better feeling which now exists between the two countries may continue unabated, and lead to a settlement of the question on terms honorable to both.

I feel that I owe an apology to the Senate for this long digression. I trust it will be found in the consideration that the inaccuracies I have endeavored to point out, did not go the world with the mere weight of an ordinary legislative debate, but with all the evidences of deliberation of arrangement; and, therefore, calculated to be more dangerous in propagating error.

It was now three o'clock, and Mr. D. gave way to a motion of Mr. SEVIER to adjourn.

TUESDAY, February 19, 1846.

Mr. DIX was about to resume his remarks which he had not concluded at the hour of adjournment yesterday, but yielded the floor to

Mr. J. M. CLAYTON, who said he desired an opportunity to offer a few remarks relative to an allusion made to him by the senator from New York, [Mr. Dix,] in the opening of his speech yesterday. He is reported to have said:

"In entering into the debate on the question under consideration, I feel constrained to differ in opinion with two distinguished senators who have preceded me, in relation to the manner in which the discussion should be conducted. I allude to the senator from Ohio, [Mr. ALLEN,] who opened the debate, and the senator from Delaware, [Mr. CLAYTON,] who followed him. Both took the ground, and with equally strong language, that the title to Oregon ought not to be drawn into the discussion, but for totally different reasons—the senator from Ohio, because the time for discussing it had gone by, and the senator from Delaware, because the time for discussing it had arrived. With the undisguised respect which I entertain for both senators, I dissent from their opinions with great diffidence of my own."

As the Senator said, he (Mr. C.) was temporarily absent from his seat, but came in a few minutes after the Senator had made that re-

[See fourth page.]

Speech of Mr Dix, concluded from 4th page.

On the 6th of August, 1827, the main provisions of the following article were renewed by the following convention.

"ART. 1. All the provisions of the third article of the convention concluded between the United States of America and his Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, on the 20th of October, 1818, shall be, and they are hereby, further indefinitely extended and continued in force in the same manner as if all the provisions of the said article were herein specifically recited.

"ART. 2. It shall be competent, however, to either of the contracting parties, in case either should think fit, at any time after the 20th of October, 1828, on giving due notice of twelve months to the other contracting party, to annul and abrogate this convention; and it shall, in such case, be accordingly entirely annulled and abrogated, after the expiration of the said term of notice.

"ART. 3. Nothing contained in convention, or in the third article of the convention of the 20th of October, 1818, hereby continued in force, shall be construed to impair, or in any manner affect, the claims which either of the contracting parties may have to any part of the country westward of the Stony or Rocky mountains."

On the basis of these two treaties the relations of the two countries in respect to Oregon now rest; and in order to ascertain what are the rights of the contracting parties to the territory in dispute we must revert to the year 1818, to the *statu quo* before they were entered into; for if, as has been seen, nothing contained in the treaties can prejudice in any manner their respective claims, no acts done since by settlement or otherwise can create, in respect to the territory in question, any rights which did not exist then.

This position was taken with characteristic vigor and brevity by the distinguished senator from South Carolina [Mr Calhoun] sitting before me, in a note dated the 3d of September, 1844, and addressed to Mr Pakenham, while the senator was acting in the capacity of a negotiator.

Sir, I wish to be distinctly understood on this point, for the reason that the Hudson's Bay Company, in which the Northwest Company had been merged, has for several years been extending its establishments, and because, in the negotiations between the British government and ours, it has been once, at least, if not more than once, intimated by the former that British subjects had interests there which it was bound to protect.—These establishments have been made with full knowledge of the stupulations of the conventions entered into between the two countries; and on no ground, even the ground of equity, can any claim be set up on the basis of these newly-created interests. To agree to suspend the settlement of the controversy, and then to draw from acts done by one of the parties during the supension new arguments in favor of its own side of the question, is not only repugnant to every rule of fairness, but it is a violation of the letter as well as the spirit of the agreement, and tends to the defeat of the very object in view in making it.

Let us see, then, what discoveries had been made, and what establishments formed, in 1818. Those of Spain were paramount to all others.—She had visited and explored the whole coast from California, where she had permanent establishments, to the most northernly line of the territory in dispute. She had discovered the strait of Juan de Fuca, and formed an establishment within it I think in 1790. She had discovered Nootka sound, and established herself there.—And she was strengthened in her claims to the absolute sovereignty of the country by its immediate contiguity to California, of which she had the undisputed and undivided possession, with the exception of two temporary establishments by the Russians between the bay of St. Francisco and Cape Mendocino, which were made to facilitate their trade in furs, and by permission of the Spanish government. It is true she had not kept up her establishments north of Cape Mendocino; but no others had been formed in the same localities; and her rights of discovery, therefore, were not superseded by rights of occupation on the part of other nations in any portion of the territory in dispute, excepting so far as they may have been derived from the American and British establishments to which I am about to refer.

The United States had discovered the Columbia river, and ascended it at the time of the discovery to the distance of twenty-five miles from its mouth. She had also discovered Bulfinch's harbor, between the Columbia and the straits of Fuca. She had examined the country watered by the Columbia and some of its tributaries, and she had formed establishments within it at four different periods—in 1809, 1810, 1811, and 1812—the most southerly near the mouth of the Columbia, and the most northerly between the 48th and 49th parllels of latitude. Spain claimed to have discovered the Columbia seventeen years before Grey entered it: but in 1821 she ceded all her rights to the country north of 42 degrees to the United States, by treaty, and thus gave us a title to the territory watered by the river which Great Britain ought never to have questioned. By virtue of the same act of cession her entire right to the coast became vested in us.

In the course of the public discussions in respect to the Oregon, the United States has been charged with dishonor and bad faith in setting up a claim to that territory, 1st, by discovery, through the agency of her own citizens. 2d, by cession of the rights of Spain. For, as has been said, if the first ground was tenable, she could not without inconsistency, set up a claim on the second, because she had virtually denied the the second by assuming the first as the basis of her right. But sir, is it not quite possible for two nations to possess rights by contiguity, or to acquire them by discovery, neither perfect but capable of being rendered so by a merger of both in one? Great Britain herself claims a right of joint occupancy with the United States in Oregon; and she will certainly not deny that a cession of her right to us, or ours to her, would create a perfect title to the country, without affording cause for any imputation of dishonor to either.

Great Britain in 1818 had surveyed the straits of Fuca, after its outlines were known, but she had made no discoveries on the coast which were not comprehended within the boundaries of the great districts previously known and visited. She may have had establishments in the valley of the Columbia; but if so I have not been able to ascertain the fact. She had discovered Frazer's river, which empties into the strait of Fuca at the 49th parllel of latitude; she had traced it from its source to the mouth; she had formed establishments on or near the 53d parallel; and it only remains to settle by the testimony of facts the geographical relation which this river and its valley bear to the river and valley of the Columbia.

I pass by as unconnected with the question, for the reasons I have assigned, all settlements made subsequently to 1818 by the Hudson's Bay Company, on which Great Britain has conferred large and most important powers in respect to the country west of the Rocky mountains. Indeed these establishments rest upon no legal concession, even by herself, which confers any right of domain. The Hudson's Bay Company has a mere right of exclusive trade with the Indians, without the privilege of acquiring any title to the soil in Oregon; and in this respect the privileges of the company differ materially from those conferred on it in relation to the territory it possesses upon Hudson's straits.

I also pass by as idle the formalities of taking possession of the country by Broughton on the Columbia, and Vancouver in the strait of Fuca—formalities a long time before performed in numberless localities by the Spaniards—especially as those of the British navigators were unaccompanied by actual settlement and occupation, and were in direct violation of a treaty which those officers were sent out to execute.

I have endeavored, Mr. President, in the first part of my remarks to maintain the Spanish title to the northwest coast of America. I regard all attempts to disparage it as antiquated and obsolete, to be founded upon partial and illiberal views of the subject. It is unnecessary to say to you, sir, or the Senate, that antiquity is the highest element of title, if the chain can be traced down unbroken and entire to our own times.—The Spanish title to the northwest coast is almost coeval with the voyage of Columbus. It is consecrated by discovery as high as the 43d parallel of latitude, by the lapse of more than two centuries, and a half, and as high as the 54th by the lapse of more than seventy years. Sixty years ago stood undisputed and unimpeached by any antagonist claim or pretension to territorial rights. It was confirmed and perfected by occupation as high as 49 deg. 30m. half a century ago. During the succeeding twenty years, it was not superseded by rights of occupation on the part of other nation, unless it be to the limited extent I have stated. During the last thirty years, all rights have been suspended by treaty arrangements between the only two powers who can, with any face, set up a claim to the exercise of sovereignty over the territory to which it attaches. In the consideration of national interests in territorial possessions, it is a narrow view to bind down sovereign states to all the rigorous technicalities of private tenures. Great principles of national right, viewed liberally, and applied according to the proclaimed intentions of the parties are the only guide worthy of statesmen or governments in the settlement of questions of sovereignty over the unoccupied portions of the earth we inhabit. The object of Spain in respect to the northwest coast was settlements—permanent occupation.—The object of Great Britain was commerce, traffic, transient occupation. Tested by the principles I have stated, I cannot hesitate to consider the Spanish title to the northwest coast of America, which has of late been so much disparaged, as vesting rights in us which are unimpeachable.

I said at the commencement of my remarks that one of my objects was to defend the Spanish title, by stating the historical facts on which it rests. I have performed the task which I allotted to myself. I will only add, that with what I have said, I am content, so far as I am concerned, to leave the whole question where it now is, in the hands of the administration, relying on its firmness and its sense of rectitude to sustain our just rights, and to respect the just rights of others.

So conscious is Great Britain of the invalidity of her title that she does not venture to assert a right to the exclusive sovereighty of any portion of the territory. In 1826 she claimed only a right of joint occupancy in common with other powers, but denied the right of exclusive dominion in the United States. While insisting that she was entitled "to place her claims at least upon a parity with those of the United States," she has constantly refused to divide the territory at the 49th parallel of latitude, the boundary between her and us from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky mountains—a line which would have severed the coast, and the country in immediate contiguity with it, into two parts so nearly equal as to leave her no reasonable ground, even on the score of an equitable division, for the continuance of a controversy. Her desire for territorial extension in this quarter is for the purpose of establishing her colonial dominion over districts of country bordering on us and confining our settlements within narrowed limits. Our contest for territorial rights, which we consider indispensable, has no object but to enable our citizens to extend themselves to our natural boundary—the Pacific. Her interest is remote and contingent. Ours is direct and certain. Her's is the interest of a state in an distant country which she wishes to colonize. Our's is the interest of a country in its own proper territory and settlement. She is not content with subjecting to her sway the fertile and opulent regions of the East; but she comes now thousands of miles across the ocean to dispute with us the dominion of the uninhabited wilderness, and curtail the area for our expansion. With the least disposition on her part to listen to the suggestions of reason and justice, this question would long ago have been settled on the fair and honorable terms of compromise—nay, sir, on the terms of concession, which we have more than once proposed.

I am sure that in the course of our government in relation to Great Britain, in our negotiations, and in the treaties which have been formed between us, no evidence will be found of a desire on our part to encroach on her rights or to adjust any of the questions which have arisen between us on other terms than those of justice and liberality. The settlement of the northeastern boundary—one of the most delicate and difficult that has ever arisen between us—affords a striking evidence of our desire to maintain with her the most friendly understanding. We ceded to her a portion of territory which she deem of vital importance as a means of military communication between the Canadas and her Atlantic provinces, and which will give her a great advantage in a contest with us. The measure was sustained by the constituted authorities of the country, and I have no desire or intention to call its wisdom in question. But it proves that we were not unwilling to afford Great Britain any facility she required for consolidating her North American possessions acting in peace as though war was not to be expected between the two countries. If we had cherished any ambitious designs in respect to them—if we had had any other wish than that continuing on terms of amity with her and them—the great military advantage would never have been conceded to her.

On the other hand, I regret to say that her course towards us has been a course of prepetual encroachment. But, sir, I will not look back upon what is past for the purpose of reviving disturbing recollections. Yet I am constrained to say, that in respect to Oregon, I consider her legislation as a virtual infraction of the conventions of 1818 and 1827. By an act of Parliament passed in 1821, she has extended the jurisdiction power, and authority of her courts of judicature in Upper Canada over the whole Indian territory in North America, "not within her own provinces, or within any civil government of the United States," and of course embracing the territory of Oregon. She has given them cognizance of every wrong and injury to the person and to property, real or personal, committed within the territory, and has declared that every person whatsoever (not British subjects alone, but every person whatsoever) residing in it shall be amenable to those courts. Nay, sir, she has authorized the crown to establish courts within the territory itself with power to try criminal offences not punishable with death, and also civil causes to a limited amount—I believe £200—about $1,000.—She has thus assumed to exercise over this territory one of the highest attributes of national sovereignty—that the deciding upon rights of property and punishing violations of the criminal laws she has extended over them. She could hardly have asserted a more absolute sovereignty than she has done by this extention of her laws and the jurisdiction of her courts over the territory in which she admits that she has no right but that of a joint occupancy. I am aware that she had disavowed the intention of enforcing her criminal laws against citizens of the United States. But if senators will turn to the documents accompanying the President's message they will see that the Hudson's Bay Company has a much more summary method of disposing of American citizens, who establish themselves on the north side of the Columbia, in the neighborhood of its settlements. Their condition is not bettered, if this exemption from the operation of the British statute is to be exchanged for a forcible process of rejection without law.

Under these circumstances, what is the duty of the United States? As I do not intend to intrude myself on the attention of the senate again, without absolute necessity, on any question relating to Oregon, I desire to say now that I shall vote for the notice to terminate the convention of 1818, continued in force by that 1827—a convention with Great Britain treats as recognizing a right of joint occupancy, but which has in reality been for her an exclusive occupancy of the whole territory north of the Columbia. I am in favor of extending the authority of our laws and the jurisdiction of our courts over the territory; and in doing so, I would, while the convention continues, specially except British subjects and direct them, when charged with infractions of our laws, to be delivered up to the nearest British authorities. I would make this reservation for the express purpose of preventing, as far as possible, a conflict of jurisdiction, and to avoid all causes for imputing to us a disregard of treaties, or a desire to produce collision or disagreement of any sort. And in order to facilitate the extention of the authority of the Union over our fellow citizens in that remote district of our country, and to remove, as far as possibe, the obstacles to a more free and efficient intercourse between us and them, I would establish at once a chain of military posts, with competent garrisons and armaments, from the remotest navigable waters which flow into the Mississippi, to the eastern face of the Rocky mountains, stopping there so long as the convention continues in force. Duty, honor, policy—all demand these measures at our hands; I trust they will be executed with p romptitude and decision.

Will these measures produce war? I cannot believe that they will. I cannot believe it because they furnish no just ground of provocation. The right to give the notice is reserved by treaty. The right of extending our laws over Oregon is a right which Great Britain has already exercised for a quarter of a century. The establishment of a chain of posts to the Rocky mountains wholly within our own territory, invades no right in others. It has been inferred, from an expression in a public document, that there is danger of immediate war, and that a sudden blow may be struck. Sir, I do not believe it. A war waged against us on account of any one or all of the measures referred to, would be a war of plain unmixed aggression. No nation in the present age, could embark in such a contest, without drawing down upon herself the condemnation of all civilized communities.

She would find herself opposed and restrained by public opinion, which, in our day, rules the conduct of nations more powerfully than the arm of force. I hold, therefore, immediate war to be out of the question. Nor can eventual war take place, unless the assertion of our just rights shall be forcibly resisted. I do not pretend to pass judgment on what the future may bring forth.—Collisions may grow out of these measures—collisions ripening, through influences and events which we may be unable to control, into open warfare. I should deeply deplore such a result. The interests of humanity, great principles of political right, self-government, freedom, individual rights, all suffer when the voice of the law is silenced by the tumult of war. "*Inter arma silent leges*," is an adage, of the truth of which history has furnished too many fatal proofs. I would do much to avert such a calamity. I would do anything not inconsistent with the public honor, to avoid a contest which would be disastrous to both parties, no matter what should be its final issue. But beyond this I can never go. And if exemption from war can only be purchased by a surrender of our just rights, I cannot consent to make the purchase. But if war cannot be averted, I trust we shall not commit the great error of undervaluing our adversary. With some opportunity of observing the condition of Great Britain near at hand, I have no hesitation in saying that she was never capable of greater efforts than she is at the present moment. I know that her inordinate distention contains within itself an element of vital weakness. It is not in the order of human society that so extended a dominion should remain long unbroken. But I have not yet been able to detect, in the condition of her body politic, the unerring symptoms of that decay which precedes and works out the dissolution of empires. She has great abuses to struggle against. The Senator from Ohio has well and graphically described them. She has enormous burdens to sustain; but she has great strength to bear them. Her soldiers are not like those of Rome in her latter days, enervated in vigor and relaxed in discipline. You will find them in every quarter of the globe, under the fiery heat of the equator, and amid the frosts of the arctic circle, braving the elements, and setting danger and toil, in every form, at defiance. But, sir, I pretend not, with my narrow foresight, to look into the future. It is possible that her hour may be near at hand.—But we know that the last struggle of the strong man is always the most desperate, and sometimes the most dangerous to the antagonist, who has brought him to the ground.

I say this is no spirit of timidity. I say it in a spirit of prudent forecast—with the desire that we may go into the contest, if it shall come, with the assurance that we have to deal with a strong adversary and not a weak one; and that our preparation may be commensurate with the means of offence to which we shall be exposed. I have no doubt of our ability both to defend ourselves, and and to give back effective blows in return. We were never so strong as we are at the present moment—strong in our position, strong in our means, strong in the spirit and energy of our people. Our defenceless condition has been greatly overstated. We have been told that our coast is denuded. I have heard, whether on this floor or elsewhere I do not know, that there is scarcely a gun mounted for the defence of the commercial metropolis of my own State. There cannot be a greater error. There are hundreds of guns, of heavy calibre, in the city of New York, ready, at the very hour in which I speak, to receive an assailant, and as many more, which can be placed in position in an emergency—and this independently of guns afloat. In thirty days I believe the city might be rendered, with a skilful engineer, and with the means which might be placed at his command, prepared—well prepared—against a maritime assault. But, sir, I turn away from all these forebodings of evil. I have confidence in the continuance of peace. The good sense of both countries will revolt at a contest which can bring no good to either, and secure an adjustment of existing difficulties on terms honorable to both. Such is my conviction. But, sir if I am deceived, then I have only to say, that while I would be constrained by nothing but overruling necessity to take up the sword, yet if the necessity shall come, I trust we shall never consent to lay it down until the rights and the honor of the country have been fully vindicated.

When Mr. Dix resumed his seat,

DESTRUCTIVE FRESHIT.

We learn that the late freshit caused considerable damage in the eastern part of this County. The little village at Livermore Falls has been washed away.—The ice jammed up below the village and caused the water to rise *twenty-four feet* in as many minutes, flowing the whole village. When the jam broke the pressure of the water swept off *twenty-seven buildings*, and doing other damage. We are happy to learn that no lives were lost. Had the rise of the river occurred in the night, it is thought it would have been impossible for the inhabitants to have escaped. We did not learn the amount of loss.

The "Hall Bridge," so called, about one half mile east of Buckfield village, was carried away. Also, a bridge in Turner not far from the North Turner Toll Bridge.

We also learn that the bridge at Mechanic Falls, in Poland, was carried away.

We have heard of no damage in this town except the loss of the bridge at the head of "Snow's Falls," and a few "water-courses" being carried away.

In Massachusetts, and west of there, we receive by our exchanges serious accounts of the spring floods.

The Merrimack, at Haverhill, became dammed by the ice, and the water rose higher than was ever known before—flooded the streets, filling the lower stories of houses and stores, and floating many of them off.—The Little River Bridge was carried away, and the Haverhill and Railroad bridges would have gone with a small additional rise. The water entered the second story of Hale's factory on Little River.

The North river, at Albany, N. Y., reached a point six inches higher than the great flood of 1839, and many families were turned out of their dwellings in the night time at short notice.

At Buffalo, the ice in the creek broke away very suddenly, in the evening, and came down with tremendous force, carrying before it steamboats, canal boats, and vessels of all descriptions. The damage to these craft is variously estimated at from $50,000 to $100,000.

The Susquehannah, at Harrisburg, was so high as to surround that place on three sides with a vast ocean of water—the town appearing to rise like an island from the sea. Many houses on the lower streets were submerged to the second story. The old Harrisburg bridge, which has withstood all the floods since 1813, and which cost $195,000, was swept away; as was also the new and splendid bridge at Duncan's Island, and two others below. The dam across Juniata, with an extensive nail factory and rolling mill were carried away. A great part of the town of Portsmouth, 9 miles below Harrisburg, were under water.

The Delaware, and other rivers in the vicinity, have been the scenes of similar disasters.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

The peremptory refusal of the American Government to submit the Oregon question to arbitration, on the ground that it would thereby recognise the rights of the British Government to a portion of Oregon, is regarded as puerile, not to say insulting.

Bad harvests generally follow each other in England, for five or six years, and this historical fact is creating some alarm, which may hasten free trade legislation in Parliament. The unusually mild winter it is feared will be followed by late frosts.

The French Chambers have voted means to establish a line of Mail steamers between New York and Havre.

The proprietors of the Cunard line are building another fine steamer.

A fleet of steamers is to assemble in the spring, in the Channel, for going through a variety of marine exercises and testing their respective qualities.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert will, it is said, after her accouchement, visit France. The Duke and Duchess of Nemours are to repair to London to accompany them.

Business generally is dull. The money market is in a very unhappy state. With fifteen millions of money locked up, waiting the adjudication of the committees of the House of Commons on the various railroad projects before them, it could hardly be otherwise. But as the companies get their acts, the money will find its way into circulation.

Preparations for War.—Whether or not we are have war, great preparations are being made for it. The army is to be increased 10,000 men; the militia are to be in readiness for immediate training; the ordinance corps are to receive an accession of 1,500 men; the royal marines 2,500 men; and the land regiments of the line 6,000. The increase in the navy will be about 1,000 men.

Matters in Ireland look serious, and every day is making them worse. Disease is already doing the work of death; and Sir Robert Peel's frightful anticipations of the future prove correct, that unhappy country is destined to become a huge carnal house. No serious evil can afflict Ireland without being felt in England. The physical condition of the sister country is at all times a matter of the first importance; at the present time it is painfully so.

The Bey of Tunis has abolished slavery throughout his dominions. It was on the representations of the French and English Consuls that he took this step.

The idea broached by the London Times, of the re-establishment of monarchy in Mexico, has been received upon the whole with favour by the Parisian press. Even the republican National does not denounce it, if it be the pleasure of the Mexicans, but insists upon the full liberty of action being allowed them. It also advises that in any measures the French government may be induced to join in, care be taken that it be not the dupe of England.

OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

PARIS, MARCH 31, 1846.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

A message from the President to Congress has for some days been expected. On Tuesday it was transmitted to the Senate. In advance it has been spoken of as a "War message." The substance of it is given in the subjoined extract of a letter from the Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser. Whether it will bear to be called a "war message," the reader can judge.

"It expresses the opinion that our foreign relations present pressing demands for the increase of our military and naval forces as a measure of wise precaution.

It refers to the annual message and reiterates all the views and recommendations of that message.

The President says that he has seen no reasons to withdraw or modify the views which he then expressed, but he has since seen additional reasons why provision should be made for the public defence; he therefore says that estimates were made for the army and navy committees *under his sanction*, and laid before them early in the present session.

He reminds the Senate of Washington's maxim:—in peace prepare for war, and refers to the controversy between the United States and Great Britain.

He tells that while Great Britain is at profound peace with all Europe, she is making extensive military preparations, and in the event of a rupture with the United States would be prepared to strike suddenly and effectually.

As to the purpose of these armaments, there were undoubted facts showing that they were intended for the United States.

He then shows from the language of Ministers of the crown that this was their purpose. Under this aspect of things he recommends preparations which can give no offence to Great Britain, nor increase the chances of rupture.

He then urges that notice be given immediately to terminate the convention, and that provision be made for the protection of settlers in Oregon.

He then refers to Mexican affairs as being in a doubtful state, and such as to require the presence of considerable of the army on the frontier.

In view of these circumstances he recommends preparations, and at the same time declares his settled purpose to pursue such a policy as will preserve peace with Mexico and Great Britain, and with proper regard to our just rights."

TRIAL FOR MURDER.—Tirrell, the murderer of Maria A. Bickford, a lewd married woman, formerly of Bangor in this State, was arraigned for trial before the S. J. Court in Boston on Tuesday last. The trial will occupy some days, no doubt. The Boston papers are crowded with the detail of the first day's proceedings—evidence, &c. Tirrel will be ably defended. Rufus Choate is one of his counsel. Mr. Parker, the County Attorney, in opening the case, in a speech of several columns, stated what he expected to prove against the prisoner. It is a fearful chapter, and most if one half of it be proved, crush him as with an avalanche.

AN ARMY OF OCCUPATION.—The New Orleans Picayune, of the 14th, contains information from Corpus Cristi, that the main body of Gen. Taylor's army had marched towards Brazos, St. Jago, and as it was rumored a large Mexican force was prepared to oppose them, a conflict was expected.

The General had issued an order, on the 8th, setting forth that whereas the army was marched to the frontier on delicate service, no person, not belonging to the force, could be allowed to accompany its march or establish themselves in its vicinity.

Also a proclamation of the same date, declaring that the force was about to take a position on the *left* (Mexican) bank of the Rio Grande, and enjoining on the troops a scrupulous regard for the rights of all found in the peaceable pursuit of their avocations, &c. &c. This proclamation was issued in both Spanish and English. Corpus Cristi was literally abandoned.

SMASHING A PRESS.—"The Democracy in Preble County," says the Cleveland, Ohio, Herald, "are at logger-heads in earnest. An article recently appeared in the Democrat so incensed ex-Senator Hazeltine, that he entered the office sledge-hammer in hand, and hammered away on the 'pot metal concern' until he broke the press in pieces, when he finished the job by pitching a large quantity of type, &c., into the street."

A fine job, truly! That ex-Senator exhibits about as much sense in the destruction of the above property as many other bipeds who vent their vengeance upon inanimate and harmless "matter." It is about on a par with shaving the hair off a valuable horse's tail to spite the owner. He's a great man, truly; and has immortalized his name, beyond a doubt.

Mr. Severance made an effort to introduce the following amendment into the Harbor and River Bill, and made a speech in favor of it. He failed to get it inserted:

"To remove obstructions on the tide-waters of Kennebec river, so as to render more accessible the United States arsenal at Augusta, $15,000."

MR. EVANS' SPEECH AGAINST OREGON. We are glad to perceive that the more decent portion of the federal press, rebuke Senator EVANS, for his British speech on Oregon. A Washington correspondent of the Boston Courier (whig) gently raps him over the knuckles, as follows:—

"Mr Evans concluded his speech yesterday, in which he urged against our extreme claims. *It is a matter of regret that any of our orators should feel themselves compelled to adopt a line of remark which wears the appearance of attacking the validity of our own title.* Mr. Evans' speech was characterized by his usual ability."

Another correspondent of the same paper makes the following significant comments:—

"Mr Evans concluded his speech in the Senate to-day. The peroration was worthy of the exordium. As the Whigs *will* speak on this subject, it is fortunate they speak well. *A mistake in policy, and failure in speech, united, would be a miserable discomfiture.*"

Punch thus laughs at one of his cotemporaries:—

"*The Corn Law Fight.* The terrible *Post* says—'It is not so the battle of protection must be fought. It must be fought calmly, but boldly, and fought, if need be, *inch by inch.*' Would it not be at once more heroic and more agricultural to say, 'barley-corn by barley-corn?'"

FIRE IN BELFAST. A fire occurred in Belfast on the morning of the 20th inst. totally consuming a wooden building owned by Joseph Williamson, Esq., situated upon Church street, which was occupied by J. C. Moore & Co., dry goods dealers, A. Richards as a grocery, and by the Belfast Division of the Sons of Temperance, together with all its contents. The building was ensured for $800; the stock of Richards, for $2,250; Moore $3,000. The Sons of Temperance will loose about $300. The Signal states that the total estimated loss is about $7,000

☞ The Portland papers state that a man by the name of George Christie, was found dead on Commercial wharf, in that city, on Tuesday of last week. He was steward of schr. Accumulator, of Gloucester, Mass.—was about 32 years of age, and an unmarried man. The coroner's inquest returned, that he came to his death by exposure to the storm of Monday night while under the influence of liquor.

A DOCTOR KILLED BY HIS OWN PRESCRIPTIONS.—We have just seen a private letter from Macon, Ga., says the N. Y. Tribune, stating that Doct. Ambrose Baker, an old and highly esteemed physician of that place, died on the 8th inst., from the effects of his own medicine. He wrote a prescription for a dose composed in part of Prussic acid, to be administered to a patient.—The druggist sent the medicine, with a message that whoever took it would be killed. The patient thereupon refused to take it, when the Doctor, to convince him there was no danger, swallowed it himself. He died in half an hour. The prescription was copied exactly from a medical work, but the quantity of Prussic acid was eight times greater than it should have been. So much for the effects of a typographical blunder.

Gen. Darnell declines to accept the office of Lieut. Gov. of Texas, to which he has recently been declared elected, unless, upon investigation, he is found to receive a majority of the votes polled for that office, of which there is said to be a doubt, if the votes had all been returned to the legislature.

☞ The Richmond Compiler mentions the death in Cumberland county, (Va.) of Syfax Brown, aged *one hundred and fifteen years four months and five days* He was for many years the slave and personal servant of John Randolph, Esq., of Matto-ax, father of the late John Randolph of Roanoke.

The Duke of Wellington.—At a late party at the house of Lord Stanley, in London, a young lady asked the Duke of Wellington "if it were true that one Englishman could beat three Frenchmen?" The Iron Duke replied, that "when a boy he had been told so; but he thanked heaven he had never been placed in a situation to try the experiment."

No one loves to tell a tale of scandal, except to him that loves to hear it; learn them to check and to rebuke the detracting tongue, by showing that you do not listen to it with pleasure.

State of Maine.

BY THE GOVERNOR.

A PROCLAMATION,

FOR A DAY OF

Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

The season upon which we are just entering is well adapted to impress our minds with a solemn sense of our dependence upon God;—it was selected by those whose habitual piety instituted the observance of our annual Fasts, as the most appropriate period for those public acknowledgements which it befits a sinful and disobedient people to render to the Supreme Ruler and Judge of the world.

The recurrence of a period so fruitful in lessons of humility and dependence should lead us humbly to renew our yearly sacrifices of prayer and praise.

With this view, and in compliance with a venerable custom, I have, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, appointed THURSDAY, *the sixteenth day of April* next, to be observed as a day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer; and it is recommended to the people of this State to assemble on that day in their respective places of public worship for the performance of such religious services as may be deemed proper for the occasion, and to abstain from such employments and recreation as are inconsistent therewith.

Remembering the multiplied proofs of divine munificence with which we have been favored, both as a community and as individuals, it becomes us deeply to lament our forgetfulness and ingratitude, and to join in sincere acknowledgements to the Benificent Being who has so liberally endowed us.

In thankfulness for the bounty which has distinguished the past, let us devoutly implore the favour of our Heavenly Father in time to come. Let us invoke His blessing upon the various avocations of our fellow men, and upon all the interests of our State and Nation: commending to His care the labors which support, and the arts which embellish human life—the institutions of religion, of learning, and of philanthropy;—let us earnestly beseech Him to continue to us the inestimable blessings of general health, and uninterrupted peace.

And deeply penetrated with a sense of our unworthiness, let us humbly deplore our national and individual transgressions, and by a penitent confession of our manifold offences, seek to obtain the pardoning mercy so freely offered in the Gospel of His Son.

Given at the Council Chamber at Augusta, this sixteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, and of the Independence of the United States the seventieth

H. J. ANDERSON.

By the Governor:
EZRA B. FRENCH, Secretary of State.

A Crush in the Temple. It is stated in the Warsaw Signal, that on the 5th, the Saints assembled in the Hall of the Temple, which is in the third story, to hear the last sermon of Brigham Young previous to his departure. So great was the weight that the timbers gave way with a loud crash, like the report of fire arms. The alarm and confusion was tremendous.—Some of the Saints broke out the windows and leaped to the ground. One man had his shoulder fractured, and others were badly hurt in thus attempting to escape. The crowd, however, succeeded in escaping before any serious injury was done to the building. The estimated damage is from $500 to $1000.

Taking it Easy. 'When a stranger treats me with disrespect,' said a poor philosopher, I comfort myself with the reflection that it is not myself that he slights, but my old coat and shabby hat, which, to say truth, have no particular claims to admiration. So, if my hat and coat choose to fret about it, let them—it is nothing to me.' The philosopher, with all his poverty, was rich in wisdom.

Who is the Heir?—He who can prove himself to be a direct descendant from Miles Standish, will be a lucky man. In the debate in the Massachusetts Legislature on the 19th inst. Mr. Giles said that he was endeavoring to find some of the descendants of Miles Standish, as they had, at the present time, locked up in the British Court of Chancery, no less than six manors, yielding an annual income of £70,000 —about $270,000.

Suicide! Commodore Crane killed himself in Washington on Wednesday last. He was chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography. He was a native of New Jersey.—No cause is yet publicly known for this sad termination of his life. He was 62 years old, and leaves a wife but no children.

Ship Building. We understand that upwards of forty vessels, some of them large ships, are now building on the Damariscotta river—a larger number, it is said, than were ever before on the stocks at once, in that region.

A gentleman, who had lately arrived at a boarding house in Portland, demanded of the lady of the establishment, at his first breakfast, whether she had helped him to *tea* or *coffee?* 'What do you mean, sir? Why do you ask?' said the lady. 'Because,' replied the gentleman, 'if this is *tea*, give me coffee; and, if *coffee*, give me tea.'

MR. MCCRATE. The W. Union of Monday evening of last week says—'We regret to learn that the Hon. Mr. McCrate, of Maine, has been prevented from being in his seat for some days in consequence of severe illness. We learn, however, with pleasure that he is gradually recovering his health.'

Accident on the Dedham Branch Railroad. As the 9 o'clock train for Dedham was going up the branch road yesterday, and just before it reached the Mill Village depot, the coupling which connects the engine and tender broke, the engine darted ahead, and Mr James Hager, fireman, fell upon the track, the car wheels passed over one of his legs, and the brakes came in contact with his body, dragged him about six rods, and mangled him in a most shocking manner. He was put upon a hand car and carried to Dedham, and Dr Whitney immediately called to attend him, but no hopes were entertained of his recovery; it was thought he could live but a short time. He belonged to West Roxbury and was about 22 years old.—The engineer very narrowly escaped the same fate, by holding on to the engine.

Boston Post of Wednesday.

The Paris correspondent of the Courier des Etats Unis states that an Indian Crœsus has newly arrived in Paris from banks of the Ganges. He is neither a pacha nor ambasador but possesses an attraction of a different kind in the enjoyment of a collossal fortune. All sorts of stories are in circulation respecting his riches and luxury, which seem to be borrowed from the tales of the Arabian Nights. The fortune of this nabob is said to be two hundred millions. Discrediting the truth of about one half the public rumor—according to the councils of wisdom—the remainder would be a very pretty sum. This opulent Indian, who reckons only by hundreds, being in London last month, according to the rumor, presented Queen Victoria with a hundred cashmere shawls, for which she invited him to dinner to express her acknowledgements. This magnificent foreigner seems to be fond of society—he has shown himself already in the principal *saloons* of Paris, and at all the brilliant assemblies that have taken place. He has been seen frequently at the *Italiens* and at the opera, being everywhere conducted and piloted by English ladies, among whom a young Miss of great beauty has been noticed.

A Perilous Position and Narrow Escape.—Mr. Cousins, understood to be from Ellsworth, and his boy with two teams were a few days since hauling goods on the river intending to go off it at Matawamkeag. They were overtaken while on the ice by night setting in uncommonly dark. Mr. C. did not dare attempt leaving the ice as the river was quite high, and the path could not be seen. He concluded to camp on the ice, and covering the boy up with the buffalos continued by exercise to keep from freezing until morning. The man for whom he was hauling, expecting him at Matawamkeag, was on the ice until after nine o'clock in the evening in search of him, gave up the search until morning, when he procured two men, who soon found them a short distance from M.—The river had risen so much during the night that the only way to get them ashore was by causing the horses to swim and getting the goods into boats. In a very short time after the party had landed the solid ice between the shore and their stopping place for the night broke up and was carried down river. Bangor Courier.

The recent rain and thaw in this vicinity have driven most of the lumbering crews from the logging swamps. This is much earlier than usual as they commonly operate until about the first of April. The effect of this will be to lessen about one fifth the quantity of lumber procured and to increase even in greater ratio the cost of that procured. Supplies for the full term are already in the camps and its consumption by the men in procuring lumber advantagiously would be much better than any use that can now be made of them.

Bangor Courier.

Smoking Seed Corn. I wish to remind your readers that if they would save their young corn next spring from the depredation of squirrels, mice, birds, &c. to prepare for smoking their corn according to the following receipe.—Leave a few husks on the seed ears, so that they can be hung up in the smoke-house and smoked with the hams; or hang them up in any dry place, and before planting dip the end of a stick in tar, set fire to it, and holding it under the corn give it a thorough smoking. I have tried this for three years, and have saved many times the subscription to the paper by it.

S. L. C. in Prairie Farmer.

RULES TO PREVENT EVIL SPEAKING.

Cherish no malice against any one. 'In malice be ye children.'

Envy no one. 'Who is able to stand before envy?'

Never cherish any feelings of jealousy respecting any one. 'Jealousy is cruel as the grave.

Make it a rule to look for good qualities in another more than for blemishes and faults.—'Esteem others better than yourselves.'

Never speak of the bad qualities of another, unless you design to do him good or to promote the cause of Christ. 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.'

Always ask the approbation and blessing of God on every thing you are about to utter respecting another.

Observe these rules, and so far as you are concerned, evil speaking will cease.

☞ The Iron Steamer, Bangor, the woodwork of which was destroyed by fire last summer, has been rebuilt, and made her first trip from Bangor to Boston on the 16th inst.

THE COPPER REGION. A private letter from Copper Harbor, on Lake Superior, Jan. 8, says,—Recent splendid discoveries have been made in the Copper mines of this region; the Pittsburgh Company on the Eagle River location, have during the past month opened a vein twelve feet wide, from the top of the hill to the bottom—over 200 feet. It is exceedingly rich in copper and silver. They have taken out one large piece of native copper and silver nearly pure, weighing two thousand pounds.—Its size is five feet ten inches by four feet two inches, ten inches thick in the centre, and seven inches on the edge. Also two thousand pounds same quality in smaller pieces. They have three thousand pounds of very rich quality in barrels ready for shipping. They have 53 1-2 tons of 10 to 12 per cent ores, copper and silver, mined in Dec., and since I left, last week, I hear that the vein has improved. The Eagle River location of Gratiot also improves—returns for December, forty tons. Copper Falls improved—thirty tons. Taylor's so Hempstead's prospects are improving. At Lake Labelle a good discovery is reported, but I have not seen it. The other locations remain much the same. From the developments made on the different veins, this country must be exceedingly rich. [N. Y. Tribune.

CHINESE EMIGRATION TO OREGON. Dr. Macgowan, a missionary at Ningpo, China, anticipates that "an emigration from China to America will yet take place equal to, if not greater than any that has been known from Europe. I venture to predict, (he says) that the population of the Pacific States will be composed in no small measure of Chinese. A channel for emigration once opened, vast multitudes from this over populated country will wend their way thither." Just think of that. Emigration pouring from Europe across the Atlantic, and from China across the Pacific—what are we coming to? or rather what isn't coming to us? Shan't we need the "whole of Oregon" for the accommodation of our Chinese fellow-citizens?

'Do you cast things here?' inquired a Yankee the other day, as he sauntered into a foundery and addressed the proprietor.

'We do.'

'You cast all kind of things in iron, eh?' was the next query.

'Certainly—don't you see that is our business.'

'Ah! well *cast a shadow*, will you!'

He was cast out and referred to a *brass* foundary.

A mixture of common soap with white lead and oil, makes an excellent and durable coating for fences, gates and outbuildings—also for the roofs and walls of houses. Equal quantities of soap and oil, or oil and spirits turpentine, may be used.

The Worcester Transcript says:

"We hear of damage done in various parts of our country by the rain of Saturday last, as the sweeping away of bridges, dams, lumber, &c. Between Saturday night and Monday morning, three dams and a bridge was carried away in this town alone.

☞ The whigs of New Hampshire have begun to wallow in wine and wassail in the large towns, on account of their success. So says the Boston Post.

Heavy Casting. Two pieces of Iron Castings, weighing nearly 7000 pounds each, were cast at the Iron Factory of Jarvis Williams, Esq., Biddeford, Maine, last week.

Twentymen Hung. We learn from the Rochester American that an Englishman named Thomas Twentymen, hung himself at Truxton, on the 29th ult., in a fit of delirium tremens.

John Neal, of Portland, has been fined $20 and costs for an assault upon a boy. And yet John once wrote a long article about 'keep your temper.'

Put into the pot a piece of lime as large as a hen's egg and however watery the potatoes may be, when the water is poured off they will be perfectly dry and mealy.

THE UPAS TREE.—A living plant of this celebrated tree was lately presented to the Horticultural Society by the East India Company, and is now growing in the Chiswick Gardens. It is in perfect health, and, notwithstanding the fables of Dutch travellers, may be approached with safety. It is, however, so virulent a poison that no prudent person would handle it without proper precaution. [Gardner's Chronicle.

A noble Agricultural enterprise is now on foot for importing into this country that variety of the Peruvian sheep known as the Alpacha. They will thrive well at the South, and companies have been formed in Kentucky and other States, and funds raised, and a vessel will soon proceed on a voyage for importing the Alpacha.

A butcher boy in New York says that he as often heard of the *fore* quarters of the globe but never heard any person say anything about the *hind* quarters.

The Miller Tabernacle in Portsmouth N. H. has been sold, cut in two, and hauled out of town, to be cut into shops or houses.

☞ The HUNGARIAN BALSAM OF LIFE, discovered by Dr. Buchan of London, and known as the Great English Remedy, will speedily and effectually cure that fearful malady, Consumption, in some of its most dangerous forms—and in all ordinary diseases of the Pulmonary organs, it is the most perfect and admirable remedy that can possibly be used.

Pamphlets respecting this Great English Remedy may be had gratis of MOSES HAMMOND, only agent in Paris.

MARRIED.

In Medford, Mass., Mr. William Childs, formerly of Canton, to Miss Mary T. Mann, formerly of this town.

In Readfield, David G. Plummer, of Portland, to Miss Roxana B. Lombard.

In Livermore, William K. Wyman to Miss Mary S. Thompson.

In Lowell, Mass., Mr. Samuel King, of Albany, Me. to Miss Harriet Hall, of Dracott, Mass.

DIED.

In Parsonsfield, Eld. Wentworth Lord, aged 89,—a soldier of the Revolution.

In Gray, on the 17th inst., on his way to Turner, Mr. Eleazer Chase, of Buxton, in the 60 year of his age.

Guardian's Sale.

BY virtue of a license from the Hon. Judge of Probate for the County of Oxford, I will offer at private sale, at the dwelling house of the late Doct. Leander Gage, in Waterford, on Monday, the fourth day of May next, from nine o'clock in the forenoon till four o'clock in the afternoon, five-eighths, undivided, of the following described real estate, situate in said Waterford, and belonging to Thomas H. Gage, Ann L. Gage, Mary S. Gage, Lois M. Gage, and George M. Gage, viz:—

The homestead Farm of the late Doct. Leander Gage, being parts of Lots numbered seven and eight, in the sixth Range, containing about one hundred and twenty two acres: excepting about twenty-five acres and part of the buildings, which have been assigned to his Widow, Ann S. Gage, as dower.

The Farm occupied by Abijah Warren, being Lot numbered three in the eleventh Range, excepting about twelve acres.

Twenty acres in lot numbered ten in the third range.

Ten acres in lot numbered seven in the eleventh range.

Two acres in lot numbered nine in the the eighth range.

Pews numbered six, forty-nine, and one third of Pew numbered thirty-five in the new Congregational meeting house.

And if the said real estate shall not be sold on the said fourth day of May next, I will offer the same, at private sale, by virtue of said license, at my Office in Harrison in the County of Cumberland, on the first Monday of each following month, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, until it shall be sold.

The remaining three eights of said real estate will be offered for sale at the same times and places; and the said property will be sold in lots to suit purchasers.

PHILIP EASTMAN, } Guardian of
said minors.

March 25, 1846. 3w47

Commissioners' Notice.

THE creditors of the estate of ELBRIDGE G. HALL, late of Peru, deceased, are notified that six months from the 3d day of March, 1846, are allowed to said creditors to exhibit and prove their claims; and for the reception thereof the undersigned will be in session at the dwelling-house of the late Elbridge G. Hall, in Peru, on Tuesday, the 21st day of April, and Tuesday, the first day of September next, from nine o'clock A. M. to four o'clock P. M. of said days.

SUMNER R NEWEL, } Commissioners
WILLIAM B WALTON, } on said Estate.

March 11th, 1846. 3w46

Notice of Foreclosure.

WHEREAS the subscribers hold a mortgage of a certain piece of land with a dwelling house on the same, situated in the East part of Woodstock, in the County of Oxford, given by Joseph Russell, then of Paris, bearing date February 19th, 1841, and recorded with the Oxford Records, Book 60, Page 332, to which Deed reference may be had for a particular description of the premises; and whereas the conditions of said mortgage have been broken, we hereby claim to foreclose the same, agreeable to the Statute in such case made and provided.

ROBINSON PARLIN
LUTHER WASHBURN

March 11th, 1846 3w46

Notice of Foreclosure.

WHEREAS, ISRAEL PIKE, of Norway, by his deed of Mortgage dated the fifth day of May, A. D. 1845, conveyed to me, the undersigned, certain Real Estate situated in Norway in the County of Oxford, viz:—"The Southerly half part of Lot numbered forty-four in that part of said town called 'Lee's Grant,'" which Deed of Mortgage is recorded in the Oxford Registry of Deeds, Book 71, Page 300, to which, for further particular and conditions, reference is had; and whereas the conditions of said Mortgage have been broken, public notice is hereby given for the purpose of foreclosing the same agreeably to the Statute in such case made and provided.

LUTHER F. PIKE.

Norway, March 21, 1846. 3w*46

Bethel Academy.

THE Spring Term of this Institution will commence on the second Wednesday in March. It will consist of two departments, a Male and Female, and all the Branches will be taught and all the advantages which are afforded in the highest schools and seminaries of the large towns and cities. MR. and MRS. BARKER have been engaged as Preceptor and Preceptress, who will receive the aid of Assistants in both departments as necessary, and from their long experience in teaching, the Trustees feel assured that all reasonable expectations will be realized.

Terms per Quarter, from $2,50 to $3,00.
French, including speaking the language, Extra, $2.
Drawing, do. $2 Landscape and Flower painting, do $2 Mezzotint, do $4.
Board in good families from $1. to $1.25, per week.

WM. FRYE, Secretary.

Bethel, Feb. 1846. 2w43

Guardian's Sale.

NOTICE is hereby given that I shall, by virtue of a License duly obtained from the Judge of Probate within and for the County of Oxford, sell at

PUBLIC AUCTION,

at the store of James Walker, in Lovell, in said county, on Saturday, the twenty-fifth day of April next, at two o'clock in the afternoon, all of the right, title and interest of HARRIET N BRICKETT, minor child of Thomas Brickett late of Sweden, in said County, deceased, in and to Lot No 1, in the 4th Range of Lots in Stoneham in said County.

ABIGAIL BRICKETT, Guardian.

Lovell, March 7, 1846. 3w45

The subscribers hereby give public notice to all concerned, that they have been duly appointed and taken upon themselves the trust of Administrators of the Estate of

DAVID HALE,

late of Turner, in the County of Oxford, deceased, by giving bond as the law directs—They therefore request all persons who are indebted to the said deceased's estate, to make immediate payment; and those who have any demands thereon to exhibit the same to

DAVID HALE,
ELIAS WHITING.

March 3, 1846 *43

[Continued from first page.]

mark. He had mistaken his (Mr. C's) position. When he had the honor of addressing the Senate on the 12th inst. he did object to the discussion of the title in open session, but he avowed distinctly at the time his perfect willingness to enter at any moment on that discussion in executive session. He did not mean to say nor did he think that he was generally understood at the time as meaning to say, that he objected to the discussion of the question at that very moment. On the contrary, he thought that he expressed his willingness to go into it then if his associates in the Senate wished to do so—but in executive session. And he begged the Senator to recollect the reason which he assigned why the discussion should be so conducted. He said, that, if the question were to be settled by treaty between the two governments, the remarks made in open session were calculated to prejudge, and must necessarily prejudge, the question which would arise upon the treaty. He thought then, and he thought so still, that if the question were to be settled in that manner, great danger might arise from these public discussions, because it would be recollected that it took nineteen of them to defeat any treaty, and if the discussion became extended, as was very likely, there was danger that nineteen Senators might become so committed before the whole country in regard to the title, and differing from the Executive, why then, was it not obvious that their consideration of the treaty would be seriously trammelled? On the other hand, he thought then and thought still, that if discussed in executive session, no such difficulty could occur, no man would be then committed before the country. But open discussion was attended with the danger of so many men committing themselves on some parrallel of latitude different from that presented in the treaty.

Mr. Dix then proceeded with his remarks, and said:

I beg the Senator from Delaware to be assured that nothing would give me more pain than to misstate any Senator on this floor, and I accept with great pleasure the explanation which he has made. I desire also to say, in justice to him, as well as to the senator from Ohio, that I did not use the term "peremtoriousness" in referring to the manner in which they had insisted that the question of title ought not, in their opinion, to be discussed. I said they had taken the position in equally strong language.

I now resume the consideration of the important question on which I had the honor to address the Senate yesterday; and in doing so, I cannot withhold the expression of my sense of the kind indulgence which has been extended to me. I will endeavor to afford the Senate a substantial proof of that sense of obligation on my part, by bringing my remarks to a close in the briefest possible period of time.

The historical sketch which I was making when the Senate adjourned of the discoveries and establishments in Oregon yesterday, ended with the year 1792.

The discovery of Bulfinch's harbor and the Columbia river by Gray, and the explorations of Galiano, Valdes, and Vancouver, in the strait of Fuca, in that year, terminated the series of maratime discoveries in the disputed territory, which had commenced two centuries and a half before. From that time to the present, nothing has been done on the coast but to fill up the smaller details of the great outline completed by the labors of these navigators.

In the same year, (1792,) Mackenzie, leaving Fort Chippewyan, on the Athabasca lake, in the 58th parallel of latitude, and nearly midway between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, proceeded westward to the Rocky mountains, where he passed the winter. The next spring he resumed his journey, struck the Tacoutche Tessee, in the 54th parallel of lattitude, (now Frazer's river,) and descended it some 250 miles. He then continued his course to the west, and reached the Pacific in north latitude 52 deg. 20 min.—about a degree north of the island of Quadra and Vancouver. Frazer's river, which takes its rise near the 55th parallel of latitude, was for nineteen years supposed to be the northern branch of the Columbia;—but in 1812 it was ascertained by Frazer to debouche in the strait of Fuca, at the 49th parallel of latitude. It waters the district of country immediately west and north of the valley drained by the upper branch of the Columbia. This district is a part of the great section of the northwest coast bounded on the east by the Rocky mountains, and on the west by the Pacific, of which the main channels of access had been laid open by previous discoveries.

In 1804, Captains Lewis and Clarke set out on their expedition to Oregon; and in 1805, after incredible hardships and labors, they established themselves on the north side of the Columbia river, near its mouth, and subsequently on the south side, and passed the winter there. In the spring of 1806, they commenced their journey homeward, and reached the Mississippi in the fall of that year, having travelled over 9000 miles. This expedition was fitted out under the direction of the government of the United States, and executed by officers in its service at the public expense. It was undertaken on the recommendation of the President, communicated in a message to Congress in 1803. One of its objects was to examine the country watered by the Columbia river, which had been discovered by a citizen of the United States; and it resulted in a survey—necessarily cursory—of the main southern branch of the river, of the principal stream to its mouth from the junction of the latter with it, and of a portion of Clarke's river, which empties into the northern branch between the 48th and 49th parallels of latitude. This was the first exploration of the Columbia made subsequently to 1792, when it was ascended by Gray, its discoverer, some twenty miles, and five months after by a detachment from Vancouver's party, under Broughton, about one hundred miles from its mouth.

It is also to be considered that the expedition of Lewis and Clark was undertaken immediately after the cession of the territory of Louisiana to the United States by France—a territory admitted to include all the country drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries to the head waters. It was also the understanding at the time that it was separated from the British possessions in North America by the 49th parallel of latitude extended westward from the Lake of the Woods indefinitely. Mr. Monroe, in a paper presented to Lord Harrowby in 1804, at London, stated that it had been so settled by commissaries appointed by France and England under the treaty of Utrecht; and the statement was not impugned or objected to. I am aware that a doubt exists whether such a line was agreed on; but after nearly a century and a half, it is questionable whether an arrangement which had been acquiesced in [Col. Benton here added—and acted on] as having been made by the competent authority at the proper time, can be denied even though no authentic record of the meeting of the commissaries can be found.* Other persons were employed by the government to survey the southern portions of Louisiana, and these contemporaneous expeditions must be regarded by the world as a public manifestation of the intention of the United States to assert all the rights she might justly claim by discovery or otherwise to the sovereignty of the country between the Mississippi and the Pacific ocean.

In 1806, Mr. Frazer, an agent of the Northwest Company, formed an establishment on Frazer's lake in the 54th parallel of latitude; and this was the first establishment ever made by British subjects west of the Rocky mountains.

In March, 1811, the Pacific Fur Company, of which John Jacob Astor, of N. York, was the principal, formed an establishment at Astoria, on the south bank of the Columbia river, about ten mils from its mouth, having first established themselves on the north bank; and this was the first settlement ever made on the Columbia or in the territory watered by that river or its tributaries, excepting two temporary establishments in 1809 and 1810, formed also by American citizens, which were soon abandoned in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining provisions and other embarrassments—The Astoria company also formed an establishment in 1811, on the Okanagon, a tributary entering the Columbia on the north side, between the 48th and 49th parallels of latitude; and in 1812 another near it on the Spokan, also a tributary on the great river.

In 1813 the Pacific Company, in consequence of the embarrassments growing out of the war of 1812 with Great Britain, sold "its establishments, furs, and stock in hand" (including the posts on the Okanagon and the Spokan) to the Northwest Company; and a few days afterwards the British sloop-of-war Raccoon arrived, took possession of the place, and hoisted the British flag.

By the treaty of Ghent, ratified by us in 1815, it was stipulated that "all territory, places, and possessions whatsoever taken by either party from the other during the war, or which may be taken after the siguing of this treaty, excepting only the islands hereinafter mentioned, shall be restored without delay."

In compliance with this stipulation the establishment at Astoria was restored to the United States. The compliance was full, unconditional, and without reservation of any sort. No claim was set up by Great Britain in her written communications with the United States on this subject, at the time of the restoration, in respect to any right of sovereignty or domain in the territory thus restored. The British minister at Washington had, it is true, a year before objected to the restoration on the ground that the place had been purchased by the Northwest Company, and that it had "been taken possession of in his majesty's name, and had been since considered as forming a part of his majesty's dominions." The objection was virtually abandoned by the restoration; and as the place was restored without a written protest or reservation, the ground of the objection may be regarded as having been considered wholly untenable by those who took it. In this transaction, as in all others relating to the territory of Oregon, the government of the U. States maintained in clear and unequivocal terms its right of sovereignty. In its instructions to Capt Biddle in 1817, it directed him to proceed to the mouth of the Columbia, and there "to assert the claim of the United States to the sovereignty of the adjacent country, in a friendly and peaceable manner, and without the employment of force." This order he executed on the 9th of August, 1818, by taking formal possession of the country on the river. The formal restoration of Astoria was made on the 6th of October, 1818; and in fourteen days afterwards (on the 20th October) a convention was agreed on by the United States and Great Britain, containing the following article:

"Art 3. It is agreed that any country that may be claimed by either party on the northwest coast of America, westward of the Stony mountains, shall, together with its harbors, bays, and creeks, and the navigation of all rivers within the same, be free and open for the term of ten years from the date of the signature of the present convention, to the vessels, citizens, and subjects of the two powers: it being well understood that this agreement is not to be construed to the prejudice of any claim which either of the two high contracting parties may have to any of said country, nor shall it be taken to affect the claims of any other State to any part of said country, the only object of the high contracting parties, in that respect, being to prevent disputes and differences among themselves." [See 2nd page for conclusion.]

*See an elaborate examination of this question in Greenhow's Oregon, page 376.

WISTAR'S BALSAM
OF
Wild Cherry,
THE GREAT REMEDY
FOR
CONSUMPTION,

AND the best medicine known to man for Asthma of every stage, Liver complaints, Bronchitis, Influenza, Coughs, Colds, Bleeding of the Lungs, Shortness of Breath, pains and weakness in the side, breast, &c., and all other diseases of the

PULMONARY ORGANS.

A very important disease over which this "Balsam" exerts a very powerful influence, is that of a

DISEASED LIVER.

In this complaint it has undoubtedly proved more efficacious than any remedy hitherto employed, and in numerous instances when patients had endured long and severe suffering from the disease, without receiving the least benefit from various remedies, and when MERCURY had been resorted to in vain, the use of this Balsam has restored the LIVER to a healthy action, and in many instances effected

PERMANENT CURES,

after every known remedy had failed to produce the desired effect.

Opinion of a regular Physician.

EXETER, Me., Sept., 30, 1845.

This certifies that I have recommended the use of WISTAR'S BALSAM OF WILD CHERRY for diseases of the Lungs, for two years past, and many bottles to my knowledge have been used by my patients, all with beneficial results. In two cases where it was thought confirmed consumption had taken place, the Wild Cherry effected a cure.

E. BOYDEN, Physician at Exeter Corner.

No Quackery! No Deception!

All published statements of cures performed by this medicine, are, in every respect, TRUE.

☞*Beware of Counterfeits & Imitations.*☜

The unparalleled and astonishing efficacy of Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry in all the diseases for which it is recommended, curing many cases after the skill of the best physicians was unavailing, has effected a large and increasing demand for it. This fact has caused several unprincipled counterfeiters and imitators to palm off serious mixtures, of similar name and appearance, for the genuine Balsam.

Be careful and get the genuine DR. WISTAR'S BALSAM OF WILD CHERRY. None genuine unless signed by I. BUTTS. Address all orders to SETH W. FOWLE, Boston, Mass.

For sale by THOMAS CROCKER, Paris; Zebulon Chadbourne, Jr., Oxford; E. & L. Atwood & Co., Buckfield; Kimball & Crocker, Bethel. [Feb. 3, 1846.—1y

—JUST PUBLISHED—

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Chapter 1. Design of the Work—Deceptions practised by Physicians—Self-Knowledge desirable—Position and Views of the Author—his Opinions tested—his Discoveries—Value of the Work.

Chapter 2. Anatomy of the Chest and Lungs, with Engravings—Plain description of the Wind Pipe—Bronchial Tubes—the Lungs—Pleura—Food Pipe—Arteries and Veins of the Lungs, &c. &c.

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Feb. 27, 1846. 1y 42

List of Letters

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Bowser, Miss Mary T. 2—Brooks, Otis W.—Benson, Mrs. Charlotte F.—Bolster, David, 2—Bridgham, Geo.—Caldwell, Joseph P.—Chandler, Reuben, Jr.—Doble, Mrs. Louisa—Dean, Asa—Follett, Lewis—Fuller, Nathaniel—Fessenden, Deblois & Fessenden—Goodenow, John—Hersey, Mrs. Hannah—Holmes, E. A. Esq.—Mathews, Asa—Mathews, Winthrop—Marshall, Moses—Morton, Mrs. Prudencia S.—Millett, Amos—Paine, Abijah L.—Perkins, Rev. Cornelius—R. W. Mason of Secretary of Oxford Lodge—Rogers, Capt. Edmund—Rosenstiel, S.—Rich, Delania—Stephens, Eleazer—Swan, William—Waterhouse, Stephen L.—Walsh, Martin.

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DENISON & FYLER

Norway Falls, Nov 25, 1845 3m48

N B Having made several different arrangements with regard to our business, the Notes and accounts due A. C Denison & Co. must be paid without fail, previous to the first of January, 1846

DENISON & FYLER

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OZIAS MILLETT.

June 5th, 1845 *w3w44

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PARIS HILL, OXFORD COUNTY.

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Feb 14 1846. 41

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